



## Michigan Chapter American College of Surgeons

*Committed surgeons in Michigan advancing patient health through education and advocacy.*

Thank you Chairman Lund, and members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today on the importance of continuing to provide the highest level of care to patients injured in motor vehicle accidents. My name is Pat Patton, and I am the Associate Chief Medical Officer at Henry Ford Hospital and an Associate Professor of Surgery at Wayne State University as well as the Chair of the Michigan Committee on Trauma. Today, I am speaking on behalf of the Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

Let me begin my remarks by expressing our support for the auto no-fault system in Michigan and our commitment to assuring that patients are able to get the care that they need in the unfortunate circumstance that they are involved in an accident. Since 1973, due to our model no-fault law, Michigan has been a leader in limiting litigation while providing payment certainty for hospitals, physicians, and other providers. Most importantly, our law helps patients maximize their opportunity to recover from their accident.

As a trauma surgeon, I can tell you that the no-fault law in Michigan has allowed us to use our time in the exam room or in the surgical suite to take care of the patient. Our clinical decisions are made solely on the best interests of the patient. In Michigan, unlike my colleagues in other states, I am not seeing patients who are deferring necessary care because they are worried that their lawsuit may not be settled for several years. Patients get the care they need based on their medical need, not the status of their lawsuit. One of the residual effects of our no-fault law has been that the assurance of payment by the insurers has made it possible for Michigan to attract and retain the skilled professionals to our state.

The no-fault law has worked for nearly 40 years, physicians are committed to assuring that patients will continue to receive this level of care into the future. It is concerning when we hear that the current system is unsustainable from sources within academia, the legislature, and the insurance industry. We want to be able to verify the claims of the insurance industry and work toward solutions that continue to provide patients with the care they need. Allowing drivers to under-insure and applying government price controls will strain the system further to the point at which it will no longer work. Physicians cannot support a proposal that intends to fix problem identified by insurers that in turn creates a new problem within health care and would be potentially catastrophic for the victims of auto accidents into the future.